

PERSPECTIVE

History of
Conestoga
buildings

page 5



SUPPLEMENT

College students
and jobs

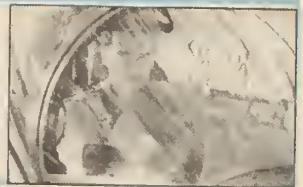
page 6



ENTERTAINMENT

Movie Review:
True Lies
Album Review:
Marvin the Album

page 4



SPOKE

Vol 26, No. 27

Conestoga College, Kitchener, Ontario

August 15, 1994



The Walker

Etrog's Pieton may be removed from Doon

By Mike Beitz

Although his long, slender, brass legs have not budged through 15 years of bitter cold and blistering sun, Pieton may soon be torn from his post overlooking the pond on Doon campus.

Pieton (translated in French as The Walker) is the three-metre-high brass sculpture that was loaned to the college in the fall of 1979 by Canadian sculptor Sorel Etrog.

Etrog, a Romanian-born artist who now lives in Toronto, has had his works displayed around the world. He is best known as being the designer of the Etrog, the Canadian equivalent of the Oscar for excellence in Canadian film.

Etrog said in an interview that although he would like to see the statue remain part of Conestoga College, he and the gallery which deals with his work are considering removing it from the Highway 401 boundary of the campus.

"It would be nice if we could find a donor to give it to the college," said Etrog, "but otherwise, we would seriously think about taking it back."

Toronto's Gallery Moos, which handles Etrog's work, originally loaned the sculpture to the college period of one year.

That one-year loan has stretched into almost 15 years, and according to Walter A. Moos, owner of the gallery, it is about time the loan was repaid.

"Conestoga students have had the good fortune of having Pieton for 15 years now," said Moos, "and we

"It isn't in the budget to spend that kind of money on a piece of art."

—Kevin Mullan

would very much like to have the sculpture associated with the college on a permanent basis."

Kevin Mullan, Conestoga's vice-president of finance and administrative operations, said the reason the college still has the sculpture after 15 years is simple: "The gallery has never asked for it back," he said.

The piece, valued at \$60,000 at the time of the original loan and worth "considerably more" now, is

far too valuable for the gallery to simply donate to Conestoga, said Moos.

"It would be ideal to have someone from the community purchase it and donate it to the college," he said. "Or maybe the college could buy the statue over a period of time."

Mullan said the college has no plans at this time to acquire the piece permanently.

"Given the economic climate," he said, "it just isn't in the budget to spend that kind of money on a piece of art."

Mullan said the college is focusing now on funding the construction of the new wing of the school of business, which is estimated to cost approximately \$4.3 million.

"How do you tell the students that \$200,000 of the money raised for capital equipment is being diverted to a statue that may or may not affect their success at the college?" said Mullan.

He added that, while it would be unfortunate if the gallery reclaimed Pieton, it was a condition under which the statue was loaned to the college that it could be taken back at any time.

Pieton, Sorel Etrog's three-metre high bronze statue that overlooks Doon campus, may soon be repossessed by the artist's gallery.

(Photo by Mike Beitz)

Negotiations between union and Ministry of Education reach stalemate

By Frank Knobloch

Contract talks between the Ministry of Education and the college system's support staff union have broken off after the union determined it was not in its best interest to continue, said local union president Ann Wallace.

"Under the social contract we can extend our present contract, which will expire Aug. 31 this year, to the end of the social contract in March 1996," said Wallace, president of Local 238 of the Ontario Public Service Em-

ployees Union.

"The social contract gives us another opportunity to go back into negotiations and see if we can negotiate different terms and conditions of employment."

The talks were not proceeding as the union would have liked, said Wallace. "What happened was our team felt very strongly that we weren't being received favorably at the bargaining table."

Wallace said the ministry was not willing to discuss any salary increases other than a previously negotiated two per cent wage in-

crease for support staff in the \$30,000-plus salary bracket.

In addition, "the employer wasn't welcoming any discussion under benefits," she said. "They said there wasn't any money in the system."

Terms and conditions of the working environment, such as hours of work, were also on the table, said Wallace. "The employer wanted to change our hours of work. That would have gained them more flexibility, and the membership wasn't prepared to accept that."

"We had an opportunity to negotiate, but when the employer is not welcoming any of our demands, we're not prepared to make concessions," said Wallace. "We're not a union that will make concessions."

She said it was agreed that the present local agreement, under the social contract definition, would be extended to the end of the social contract in 1996. In accepting, union benefits that were terminated two years ago would be reinstated. "And there won't be any Rae days (unpaid days off) for '95 and '96."

See Talks, page 3

Lehman trial held off to 1995

By Michelle Voll

The trial of Ron Lehman, former Doon Student Association (DSA) president, will not be held until next year.

Lehman appeared in provincial court in Kitchener July 27, and his trial was held off until March 24, 1995.

Lehman, charged Nov. 3, 1993 with two counts of sexual assault, cited personal reasons when he resigned as DSA president.

Conestoga, UW, WLU design float

By Frank Knobloch

The increasing co-operation between Conestoga College and Waterloo's universities will be demonstrated in a joint project to be entered in this fall's Oktoberfest parade.

John MacKenzie, vice-president of human resources and student development at Conestoga, said, the parade has been changing, and organizers have been trying to adapt to those changes.

The result was a decision to promote the substantial investment opportunities of Kitchener-Waterloo to people from the United States

and other countries attending the parade, said MacKenzie.

Parade organizers decided, he said, that it was important to emphasize to potential investors the supply of qualified workers that are a product of the area's educational institutions. "So they said, 'clearly one element that we need in the parade is an education float.'"

"Everybody in education is experiencing tough economic times," said MacKenzie. "So the presidents of Wilfrid Laurier University, University of Waterloo and Conestoga College agreed to commit a modest sum of money (\$3,000 for each

See Schools join, page 3



Let there be light

Nuno Santos of Ainsworth Electric stretches to install new lighting fixtures at Doon campus.

(Photo by Frank Knobloch)

SPOKE

Editor: Sean McMinn
Associate Editor: Mike Beitz
Production Manager: Rob Heinbecker
Advertising Manager: Rob Heinbecker
Circulation Manager: Michelle Voll
Faculty Supervisor: Jerry Frank

Spoke is published and produced by the journalism — print students of Conestoga College. Spoke is mainly funded from September to May by the DSA. The views and opinions expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the views of the college or the DSA. Advertisers in Spoke are not endorsed by the DSA unless their advertisements contain the DSA logo. Spoke shall not be liable for damages arising out of errors in advertising beyond the amount paid for the space.

Spoke, Conestoga College,
299 Doon Valley Dr., Room 4B15,
Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 4M4
Telephone: 748-5366

Summer best period
to come to college

For Spoke, the summer is over, and in this last issue of the season it is only fitting to end the semester with a salute.

A salute to all of the students and faculty who have been diligently studying and working through one of the most beautiful summers on record.

Do not misunderstand me, however. This salute is not done out of pity for the people who remain on campus, but rather is an acknowledgement of their intelligence.

Summer is undoubtedly the best semester to come to college. Of course, if you say this to some people, they will give you a Homer Simpson blinking stare. But it is the truth.

Consider for a moment the arguments of some of these Homer Simpsons who would not be caught within 100 metres of college property during the summer.

These Homers might say students are giving up their freedom. Figure this one out. If students are not enrolled for the summer, they must be working or wishing they had a lousy minimum wage job, so precious freedom is spent at work.

If students are not hampered by work and have lots of money, then they are too wealthy to be in college and therefore are idiots.

Next, the Homers might whine about sweating like livestock in hot classrooms. Sorry, but all the buildings at the college are air conditioned and probably cooler than where most of these Homers live and work.

While the Homers are perspiring out on their back porch with a case of dehydrating beer, we are in a cool classroom with a freshly opened Coke on our desks.

They will say the campus is deserted. Exactly. The desolation is perfect. The lack of people on campus has so many advantages it is hard to count. There are no crowds of people lumbering down the hallways to bump into. Right now, a person can run up and down these hallowed corridors screaming obscenities related to program chairs and only draw a few revulsed looks.

Computer space is a dream. The fullest class still has 20 terminals free, and no lineups for the printer.

The rest of the year a student has to put up with various professors who act like Commander Adolphs when it comes to letting someone use a free computer during a scheduled class. These professors not only keep the lab door closed and locked, but also rig the door handle with an electrical charge.

A person can still see the chalk outlines on the floor where the slain bodies of students had lain, murdered by their peers for a few moments time on a terminal.

But all of this will be over soon. Again the students will return and again there will be the pick-a-number-for-the-month-you-get-served lineups. So enjoy what you have left.



By Rob
Heinbecker

Letters to the editor

Spoke welcomes all letters to the editor. If you have a beef, or an opinion, please send it in. Spoke reserves the right to edit letters to fit space, and to remove any libellous statements. Your letter must be signed, and include your program and year for verification. Send letters to the Spoke office, Room 4B15, Doon campus.

Spoke, Conestoga College,
299 Doon Valley Dr., Room 4B15
Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 4M4
Telephone: 748-5366

OPINION



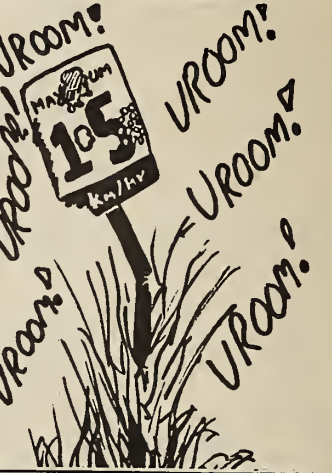
Controlling speeders around Waterloo Region		
Highway 401	Local Roadways	Doon Campus
		
PHOTO RADAR DETERS SPEEDERS BY MAILING HUGE FINES TO THEIR HOMES	POLICE DETER SPEEDERS BY STOPPING CARS, ISSUING TICKETS AND DELAYING PEOPLE	POSTED SIGNS DETERS SPEEDERS BY REMINDING THEM OF THEIR MORAL AND LAW ARISING OBLIGATION TO SOCIETY.

Photo radar an Orwellian prophecy

The year 1984 is finally here. Took an extra decade to arrive, but make no mistake about it, George Orwell's prophecies are coming true.

In Orwell's book, 1984, written decades before the actual year, he described a world in which a person's every move was monitored by Big Brother.

There was no freedom from Big Brother; everywhere you could go, he could too.

Orwell created a terrifying concept of a time in which freedom of expression, choice or even thought was not only discouraged, it was forbidden and the rules were enforced.

I think people must have breathed a collective sigh of relief when the year 1984 arrived and they were still allowed the freedoms they were used to.

But now, in 1994, shades of Orwell are starting to shine through.

With the implementation of photo radar, part of our freedom is being taken away. Now the long arms of the law will stretch even further, to places where no police officer need be present to catch the defiers.

I realize that photo radar is not anywhere close to what Orwell described. It can be looked at simply as a more effective way to enforce our present laws.

But there is something eerie about the thought of



By Michelle
Voll

being caught for speeding when there is no officer present. It gives me the impression that as I go about my daily life, I am being watched by unseen eyes.

I tend to stick fairly close to the speed limit when I drive, so I have no real fears about opening my mailbox and finding speeding tickets there.

I can even take the point of view that this is the most effective way to patrol our highways. Driving excessively fast can take away lives, and I agree that photo radar is the most economic way to deal with the problem. We simply don't have enough speed limit enforcers to effectively patrol the streets ourselves.

But I still don't like the possibilities of what photo radar could bring.

Once it gets under way, it could open the door for the rest of our lives to be watched.

We are living in an electronic age, where so much is monitored already. Will there soon come a time when our every action is being watched by someone, somewhere?

Probably not, as we still retain our morality about the invasion of a person's private space. But with photo radar, the possibility is there.

I just hope that we stop here and don't turn our world into one Orwell could have written about.

Myriam Bedard an inspiring role model

The bracing Norwegian cold on Feb. 18, 1994, would have stopped many people in their tracks. But not one girl in particular. In fact, she streamed along faster and stronger than anyone else on the 15-kilometre biathlon trail.

With a spirit and determination that could not be broken, Myriam Bédard struck gold that day at the Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer, and again a few days later in the 10-kilometre biathlon race. Both times, in spite of what must have been extreme physical and mental exhaustion, she crossed the line standing tall.

"I never fall down after a race," she said in a July 1994 Chatelaine interview. "So I don't know why I should start at the Olympic Games just because I have the cameras on me . . . That kind of thing is just show business."

She has made Olympic history by becoming the first North American to win gold in a 15-kilometre biathlon race and she is the first Canadian woman ever to win two gold medals at a Winter Olympics.

Wonderful. Canadian girls and women have a new role model to



By Nicole
Downie

look up to. Seven months after her inspiring performances, however, I wonder how many of us know who she is? I fret to think that most girls are too busy plastering their walls with posters of Madonna to take note of a talented Canadian athlete.

And most women are too busy comparing their body mass indexes to that of Sharon Stone to recognize and appreciate the 24-year-old powerhouse.

And a powerhouse she is, in body and mind. As sports seem to be turning more and more into a money-making industry, this native of Neufchâtel, Que., is taking on Biathlon Canada single-handedly.

After capturing a bronze for the 15-kilometre biathlon at the 1992 Winter Olympics in Albertville, France, she refused to sign a contract that would give Biathlon Canada a piece of her endorsements.

She was suspended from the Canadian team until an agreement, aimable to both sides, was made.

She handled the sports big-wigs the same way she handles biathlon courses — with will power, steadfastness and sure-shooting.

Women such as Bédard are potential remedies to age-old, societal stereotypes of women. Just look at North American films and television, where women are usually portrayed as either good mothers, bitchy business executives or vain sex sirens.

A lack of respectable heroines in such influential and dominant media presents a problem for Canadian women. Fortunately, these heroines do exist in the real world. Unfortunately, we do not hear enough about them.

Madonna wins fame and fortune by simulating sexual acts on stage and posing nude. Bédard, with all her raw talent, athletic ability and natural beauty, will fade into the woodwork, if she hasn't already.

Let us strive for a society in which our idols are those who have reached success through practice, dedication and inner strength.

Parents of sick girl overwhelmed by support shown at fundraiser

By Sean McMinn

The parents and friends of a Cambridge girl dying from leukemia say they are surprised by the number of people willing to help them try to find a bone marrow donor who could give their daughter a second chance at life.

Sue Clements said she was overwhelmed by how many people have joined the fight for her daughter, Amanda's, life.

"At first you're really surprised," she said in an interview Aug. 6 at a fundraising dance at the Hespeler Legion in Cambridge.

After watching the news or reading the newspaper, she said, she learned not to trust people. But after seeing all the people help her daughter, she concluded that "maybe this world isn't bad and there are good people."

She said seeing so many strangers wanting to help has given her and her husband, Bob, more hope. "If it weren't for all the people helping, I think I would probably become depressed," she said.

The people who helped put the dance together are "beautiful peo-

ple" said her husband.

The couple's seven-year-old daughter is dying from a disease called acute lymphoblastic leukemia — cancer of the blood. To increase her chance of living, Amanda needs a bone marrow transplant, but because she has a rare chromosome called the Philadelphia Chromosome, the odds of finding a donor who is a match is one in 750,000.

Carol MacDonald, a friend of Amanda's parents, said although about 300 people have registered (they must be between 17 and 59), the tests would cost about \$25,000 and the Red Cross does not have the money.

"It's like a catch-22," said MacDonald. "You have all these people here, but no money to test them."

MacDonald, along with some friends, organized the dance to help raise the \$25,000 that the Red Cross needs to start the tests.

Most of the people who attended were strangers.

According to Bob and Sue, caring for Amanda is a 24-hour job and has changed their lives drastically.

Amanda understands her illness,

said Sue. "I think she deals with it better than her father and I, mainly because she doesn't think about what tomorrow is going to bring."

But adapting is very difficult, she said. "She was very active, always running around, playing with her friends, riding her bike. She can hardly peddle her bike right now," she said.

"How do you tell her she can't ride her bike because she has no strength?" asked Bob.

Amanda has finished her chemotherapy treatment unsuccessfully, said Sue, and she hopes they raise enough money for the tests before Amanda goes through radiation treatment, which may begin as early as late August. "Radiation treatment is like weeds in the lawn," she said. "You can get rid of them by using weed killer. It kills the weeds but also kills the grass."

The Clements are asking people to register to become a donor, as well as donate money. "This is just as heroic as running into a burning building to save someone," said Sue.

Bob said it angers him to see the government spend money on refu-



Carol MacDonald introduces Amanda Clements at the benefit dance at Hespeler Legion. (Photo by Sean McMinn)

gees in Rwanda and not have enough money to help people in Canada like Amanda.

But Sue said she and her husband are maintaining a positive outlook. "If they can't help Amanda, perhaps they helped someone else, and everything done was not in vain."

About 10:30 p.m., Amanda came

to the dance to receive a \$20,000 cheque, staying only for about 15 minutes to limit the time her weakened immune system would be exposed to the crowd.

"What we're asking is if you haven't registered, come out and register," said Sue, explaining that it could save a life.

Changes announced for DSA drug plan

By Mike Beitz

Recent changes made to the Doon Student Association's prescription drug plan mean students can pay for half a year's coverage if they will not be students for a full year.

Students attending classes from September until December were originally expected to pay the fee for a full year (\$50.54) even though the period of coverage was only six months.

The revised drug plan, according to the DSA vice-president of student affairs, requires students enrolled for six months to pay only half of the regular fee (\$25.27).

"If students start in September and finish in December," said Jacki Allin, "they are only charged half of the activity fee. And since the registrar included the drug fee with the activity fee, they only get charged half of the drug fee."

Similarly, students who begin in January and finish in August are required to pay only half of the regular drug plan fee.

A student enrolled from September 1 to Aug. 31 is still re-

quired to pay the mandatory \$50.54 fee, which covers prescription drugs to a maximum of \$2,000 during that period.

All students may still opt out of the drug plan providing they have similar coverage already and can show proof of that coverage.

For those attending classes from September until August, the cutoff date for opting out of the plan is Sept. 30, and coverage is from Sept. 1 to Aug. 31.

Students enrolled from September until December who are eligible to opt out of the plan must also do so by Sept. 30; otherwise, they are covered from Sept. 1 to Feb. 28.

Students enrolled from January to August must opt out by January 9, and are covered from March 1 to Aug. 31.

Coverage for January and February may also be purchased for an additional fee of between \$4 and \$5 per month, said Allin.

Those students enrolled from February to August must opt out by Feb. 13, and are covered from March 1 to Aug. 31. Coverage for February may also be purchased for an additional fee.

Schools join to build float

From page 1

school) towards a float that would represent education."

He said he got wind of the idea through an organization, the Town and Gown committee, he is involved with.

It represents the interests of the community and its post secondary education institutions, he said.

"Through default, I became chair of the float committee," said MacKenzie. "We were best equipped to handle the actual construction of the float," he said.

"There was no question about it in terms of the practical hands-on stuff."

The committee learned that somebody at the registrar's office at Wilfrid Laurier had a hay wagon that had been sold to a farmer, he said.

"We phoned the farmer and asked to borrow it back and had it towed



The float under construction.

from Heidelberg to the Guelph campus."

Hans Zawada, chair of technology, trades and apprenticeship at Conestoga, said construction began roughly two months ago but picked up steam in late July.

"It's going to be quite attractive, and I hope we win a prize with it," said Zawada.

The universities will take over with the finishing stages of the float at the end of August, he said.

"It's a very collaborative process," said MacKenzie.

Union, ministry talks break off

From page 1

"So we were successful in negotiating under the social contract, but not under the normal umbrella of the colleges' collective bargaining unit," she said. "But this is a forced resolution. They've just raped it."

Wallace said she is concerned that there will be no end to the social contract, which means the union's negotiating powers would be stymied indefinitely.

"In the detail of the social contract, there's no sunset clause. It's an open-ended act. It can go on and on, depending on the government of the day."

Ute Lewis, the union's chief steward, said the tough terms would be easier to endure if the government would play fair and stop appropriating raises for themselves.

ONE BEDROOM BASEMENT APARTMENT

Includes:
fireplace, laundry, cable.
\$385 per month inclusive.
Call Laura at 743-7330

Town homes for rent.

- » Minutes from the college
- » Two and three bedroom apartments
- » Fridge, stove, and dryer included
- » Pool available in complex

For inquiries please contact Phillip Galin at Tudor Lane Investments Ltd. Phone# 893-5891, 884-4773, 894-6116

Get Involved! be an ICE BREAKER

We need **you** for...

- ❖ Orientation Parties and Events
- ❖ Shinerama

Contact the DSA for more information Today

Schwarzenegger strikes again

True Lies re-establishes Schwarzenegger's popularity

Frank Knobloch

Kaboom! Arnold Schwarzenegger leaves critics, who were skeptical of his box-office draw after the dismal Last Action Hero, covered in rubble with his new blockbuster hit, True Lies.

True Lies is based on a French flick called La Totale, a story about a spy who is compelled to juggle espionage and home life.

Schwarzenegger is special agent Harry Tasker, working for Omega Sector, the last line of defence, a secret service agency that takes on only the most dangerous (Schwarzenegger-type) missions.

Tom Arnold, formerly of the TV show Roseanne, plays Schwarzenegger's sidekick, Gib. The duo becomes involved with a Middle East terrorist group planning to announce its cause through a campaign of bombings using nuclear warheads in the good old U.S.A.

Tasker's wife Helen (Jamie Lee Curtis) is unwittingly drawn into the spy world after a botched affair with Simon, the used car salesman (Bill Paxton), sends Tasker into fits of jealousy.

While duping Simon and trying to regain the affections of his wife,

Tasker, along with his wife, are kidnapped by the terrorists Juno (Tia Carrere) and Aziz (Art Malik).

At this point, boom, bang, bing, pow, ping, and True Lies explodes into non-stop action.

You do not go to a Schwarzenegger film expecting a Cannes-type art flick. Twentieth Century Fox and True Lies delivers exactly what their pre-release hype suggests: mega-action.

Uzi machine-guns, heat-seeking missiles, Harrier jets, attack helicopters and stunts galore make this movie a delight for an action fan and special effects buff.

Tasker, Helen and Gib take on the villains using lines from a script that could have been written for the Three Stooges.

But that humor gives True Lies true charm and it is how director James Cameron (Terminator 2) intended the movie to be, a light-hearted action-comedy flick. There are very few scenes that involve blood. It seems that Cameron intended to keep blood and guts out of it. There are a lot of head shots and violence, but they seem harm-

Movie Review True Lies Odeon Hyland Cinema

less.

The scenes near the conclusion, with Tasker using a Harrier jet to

save his wife and daughter from the terrorists, are riveting, awesome and a testament to the rapid developments of computer and film-making technology.

Tasker in the driver's seat of a Harrier jet — guess who wins against the villains?

Tasker and Helen are reunited and live happily ever after, but as Boris and Doris, special agents for Omega. It seems that Helen, in the

meantime, has come out of her bored housewife shell and has been transformed into a female Rambo spy.

Performances are admirable and Jamie Lee Curtis elevates the part of female lead in an action flick a dozen notches with a stellar act. Schwarzenegger is predictable. We all know that he tries hard, but will never attain the acting level of Dustin Hoffman or Robert Mitchum.

Malik, Carrere and Paxton, through their commanding performances, will no doubt be able to up their asking price considerably for future film projects.



Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jamie Lee Curtis star in True Lies.
(Photo courtesy of 20th Century Fox)

Frente! too sweet in first release Marvin the Album

By Mike Beltz

Angie Hart, lead singer of Frente!, is both the best and the worst thing about Marvin the Album, the Australian band's first release.

Hart's voice is clear, lilting and, at times, absolutely lovely, and on tracks like Girl and Dangerous, it blends well with the playful lyrics and cheerful tone of the music.

There is too much of this, though. After 14 tracks, the saccharine sweetness of Hart's voice becomes almost cloying.

What the album lacks is range and variety, which would add depth to an otherwise strong and eclectic collection of songs.

On the whole, the songwriting of Hart and vocalist/lead guitarist Simon Austin is excellent — poetic and insightful.

The Melbourne-based quartet, rounded out by Alistair Barden on drums and Tim O'Connor on bass, works well together to create a jazz/pop

Album Review Marvin the Album Frente!

feel to the LP, which has become a fan favorite in the land down under.

Australians voted Frente! (which means front in Spanish) the best new group in a Rolling Stone reader survey.

Their success comes hard on the heels of the album's first single, Labor of Love, by far the best track, which features an excellent recorder solo by Hart.

Frente! also gained fans and a great deal of respect by its excellent acoustic cover of New Order's Bizarre Love Triangle. This is where Hart is at her best.

The stripped-down version of the loud and energetic dance track showcases both Hart's in-

nocent and child-like voice, and the simplicity of arrangement, which is characteristic of Marvin the Album.

At times, however, that simplicity is taken to the extreme. On tracks like Accidentally Kelly Street, the lyrics move from the simple to the inane: Accidentally Kelly Street/Where friends and strangers sometimes meet/Accidentally Kelly Street/I never thought life could be so sweet.

The only significant criticism of Marvin the Album is that sweetness.

The 14 songs reflect quite a wide range of topic matter, from the patriotic and political Cuscutlan, to songs of isolation like Labor of Love and Lonely.

Despite the shift in tone of the lyrics from song to song, Hart's little-girl voice fails in many cases to match it.

Otherwise, Marvin the Album is an excellent debut album from an exciting young quartet.

Used Textbook Sale

Tuesday, August 30 and Wednesday, August 31

Student Lounge

9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Students can drop off old textbooks to be sold to the DSA Administration Office outside the Student Lounge.

Consignment fee applicable.

TEXTBOOK DROPOFF DATES

Monday, August 15 - Monday, August 29

*Books will not be accepted after Monday, August 29

For more information call the DSA Office at 748-5131



Get the FAX.....

Student Fax Machine - 748-6727

* located in the DSA Administration Office (outside the Student Lounge)

* Local call: first page \$1, each additional page 50 cents

* Long Distance call: (519) area code - first page, \$1.50, each additional page 99 cents

Other area codes, \$2.50 first page, 99 cents each additional page

* Incoming FAX service available

No Charge

For more information see Jamie at the DSA Administration Office



Perspective

History of Doon buildings

Detweiler a dream come true

By Rob Heinbecker

For 30 years, the Daniel B. Detweiler electrical centre had been little more than an incubated dream.

The dream belonged to former Detweiler manager Heinz Peper, who joined the college as a part-time instructor in 1978 and was able to create a unique classroom/workplace for students.

The centre was named after Detweiler, who was known as the founder of Hydro. Detweiler was originally a shoe manufacturer, but in 1896 witnessed a demonstration by George Westinghouse to run electricity from Niagara Falls to Buffalo. Detweiler began efforts to try and bring electricity to the communities of Kitchener (Berlin at the

time), Waterloo and Galt.

Peper's devotion to making the building a reality extended from planning every inch of its interior to spending weekends mixing cement and laying bricks at the foundation, according to articles written in Spoke in 1985.

The centre was officially opened on Oct. 25, 1985, but had actually been in use since September.

The building could double as a museum because inside the main foyer, there is a replica of a Wheelock steam engine which drives a 45-kilowatt, bi-polar Dynamo.

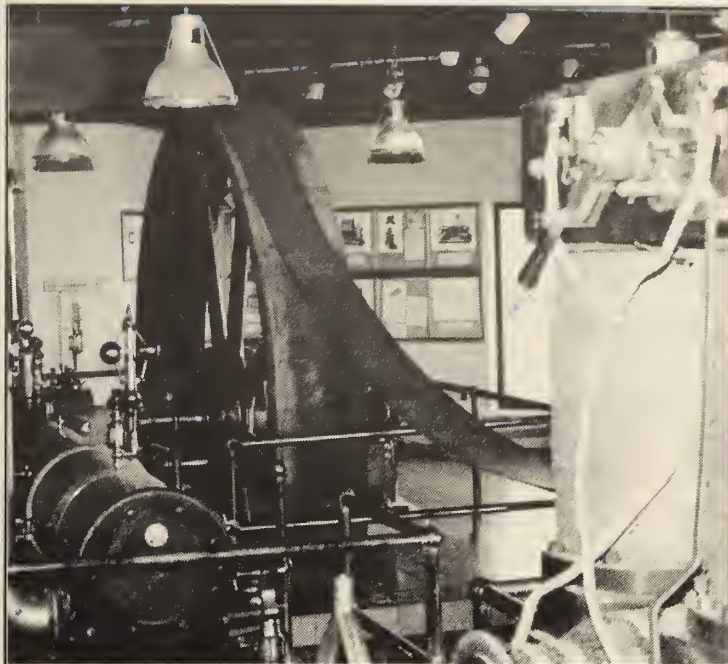
Peper had donated many vintage pieces of equipment and machinery from a personal collection he owned. The halls are lined with photographs of people, places and events with relevance to electrical

history. Classrooms have been named after famous contributors such as Thomas Edison and Charles Coulomb, and local people with electrical historical significance, like Alex Welker and Percy Weissgerber.

Hans Zawada, chair of trades and apprenticeship, currently runs the centre and said he has made changes to the labs.

He said he is planning to tone down the museum aspect of the building and concentrate more on a classroom atmosphere.

"We got rid of the static equipment that used to be sitting in the machine hall . . . they used to be great show-and-tell items," said Zawada, but added equipment had to be upgraded to provide better hands-on training.



The Dynamo in the Detweiler centre. (Photo by Rob Heinbecker)

Building a rags to riches story

By Rob Heinbecker

Rusted, leaking portables, asphalt walkways pooled over with rain water and skunk and groundhog playgrounds; welcome to the Conestoga College administration offices. At least that is the way it was three years ago.

The new student/client services building has given Conestoga a new home for the college's administration, new classrooms for industrial training and a touch of class.

David Putt, director of physical resources, said that when the college was first established there had been about 20 "temporary" portables which were used. The portables were classrooms before the main building was built; afterwards, administration took them over.

Putt said the conditions for those working in the portables were awful because they were poorly heated and there were no washrooms. The buildings would constantly leak and were "literally falling apart."

"This (the portables) was supposed to be the administration entrance to show guests," said Putt.

Finally, it became too expensive to operate and maintain the portables and the college sent in a report to the federal and provincial governments asking for financing to build a new building, said Putt. For the report, Putt took photographs inside and out.

The new student/client services building was begun in 1991 and was finished in time for September of 1992. Putt said the building was more complex in design than the proposed school of business, and contains its own rooftop heaters, separate from the main campus.

The lower level, or student services floor, houses departments such as the registrar's office and liaison services, while the upper level, or client floor, has extensive computer labs and classrooms for industrial training.

Because industrial training has "gone through the roof", said Putt, he has had to redesign the client floor three times.

Building sports centre a test of patience

By Nicole Downie

Sixteen years ago this fall, passers-by at Doon campus would have seen piles of dirt beside the main building. With a lot of hard work and perseverance, those piles of dirt turned into a sports facility. But getting the Kenneth E. Hunter Recreation Centre built was not an easy task, according to Dan Young, director of athletics and recreation.

"We wanted to start back in 1974, but there was a building freeze in Ontario at the time," Young said. "We had to wait three years before we got the money to do it."

Young decided a recreation centre was needed when students in the early 1970s started to express concern about a lack of athletic facilities at the college.

In 1974, the DSA put aside a portion of the student activity fee for a recreation centre fund. Young then started a fund-raising campaign, collecting donations from college employees, the local business community and local sports clubs, he said.

Part of fund-raising festivities included a radio marathon, put on by Conestoga's own CXLR (then CKER). A pancake breakfast was

hosted by the college at the Market Square in Kitchener, as was a gourmet St. Patrick's Day dinner in the main cafeteria.

By the end of 1977, after six months of campaigning, college faculty, staff and students raised about \$250,000 — more than the \$200,000 original goal, Young said. "Everyone worked hard. It was a challenge but well worth it."

In the summer of 1977, Conestoga was given a provincial grant of \$80,000 for a planning study, Young said. Toronto architect Jim Strasman was hired and designs were based on Young's proposal.

"I just suggested what rooms should be built, and what their basic dimensions should be," he said.

Young's plans included a gymnasium, an Olympic-sized ice rink, a fitness room and a pool, which was supposed to be built in a second building phase but has since been deemed too expensive.

In the fall of 1978, the final plans were improved. Financial support came from the DSA and the local fund-raising campaign, the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, a Wintario grant and the college's building fund, Young said.

On Sept. 23, 1978, a ceremony

was held to signify the official beginning of construction, after a provincial carpenter strike delayed work for a month, just one of several "little surprises" in the making of the centre, Young said.

Before construction was completed in 1980, a steel support for the roof came down when the crane that was suspending it collapsed. Safety checks delayed construction for 10 days. In September 1979, the complex was struck by lightning, causing some damage to the arena refrigeration room.

Even after construction was completed, the opening of the centre was delayed due to the wood in the saunas. "The building inspector thought the wood might burn," said Young. "So we had to treat it with a fire-retardant stain that was imported from California. We had already waited so long for the centre, we figured we could wait a little longer."

On Jan. 5, 1980, the arena was opened and the auditorium followed on March 17. Young dropped the puck for Conestoga's first official hockey game on Jan. 16, in which the Conestoga Condors lost 6-3 to the Humber College Hawkes.



Rick Schmittauser (left) enters information into a PLC while Paul Klein watches the pneumatic system boards for results. (Photo by Rob Heinbecker)

New computer lab moved to Detweiler

By Rob Heinbecker

Take an old classroom, some old equipment, put them together in the Detweiler centre and they become a new computer lab.

As part of the college's continuing effort to consolidate programs from satellite campuses, programmable logic controllers (PLCs) and pneumatic systems boards were moved from Guelph campus to Doon.

Programmable logic controllers are computers used in industry to

send instructions to control the operation of machinery. Students send instructions to the pneumatics mounted on the boards in the labs.

The move was a "combined effort by students and faculty," said Hans Zawada, chair of trades and apprenticeship.

Zawada said students from the millwright program and the electro mechanical maintenance program jointly dismantled, transported and reassembled the equipment, costing the college lit-

tle in moving costs.

The 10 stations in the new lab are used by a variety of students, including electro mechanical maintenance, electrician's apprentice, pre-employment and night classes.

The move saves students who use the equipment from making trips between Doon and Guelph, said Zawada.

He added that the move is a small one and that the bulk of the trades and apprenticeship programs remain in Guelph.

College Students and Jobs

Produced by spring term semester two students

Foreign student juggles two jobs

By Esther Chioreanu

Working two part-time jobs and going to Conestoga College Doon campus full-time is a hard thing to do, according to a first-year electronics engineer student.

Corina Adam, a Romanian student who came to Canada two and a half years ago, works as a waitress in the food services department at the University of Waterloo's south campus dining hall and as a counter helper at OsoGood Meat Products in the Kitchener Farmer's Market to pay for her tuition and college supplies.

Her waitressing job involves setting the tables, serving food and helping in the kitchen. In addition, she sometimes washes dishes, clears the tables and cleans up after banquets.

Adam works about 10 hours a week at the university "depending on when the parties are." At her market job she usually works about nine hours a week from 5 a.m. to

about 3 p.m. every Saturday.

Her responsibilities at the all-natural OsoGoods Meat Products include serving customers with their choices of fresh-ground beef, steaks, porkchops, hams, homemade sausages, and European-style cold cuts. Adam also handles cash and cleans up at the end of the day.

At around 5:45 a.m. she starts serving customers and at about 10 a.m. is their busiest hour.

Her hours at the university vary from 10 hours or more per week or sometimes she does not work at all. "I only work when there is a banquet going on," said Adam.

Some of the events include parties for such clubs as the Zonta's club (a women's club) and K-W Rotary club where they would have dinner every week or every month at the university.

There are other special-occasion parties for such things as weddings, banquets, Christmas or Easter par-

ties that the south campus hall is used for.

Her waitressing job, working for \$7.60 an hour, is not stable because "you don't know when the parties are."

She could live off her market job, which pays \$320 a month. With this money that she receives every Saturday, she pays for her expenses including gas in her car, she said.

Although she enjoys working both jobs because she likes the people she works with, "after one day of working at the market I get pretty tired," admitted Adam.

Occasionally, she has had to work two jobs on some Saturdays. After she had worked at the market, she headed for work at the university and worked at her second job till midnight.

She would sometimes have to work the following day.

For her electronics engineer program tuition, she pays about \$1,250 per year.



Corina Adam is busy working at OsoGood Meat Products in the Kitchener's Farmer Market on Saturday. (Photo by Esther Chioreanu)

In addition she spends about \$300 for books and must also buy her own school supplies and a parts kit from school.

Adam, who started at Conestoga in September 1993, presently takes six courses and her three-year program involves designing circuits, electronic components and working with wires.

She does not find very much time to do her homework. Although the first semester was not hard for her the second semester is more challenging, she admitted.

"I have to spend a lot of time understanding some concepts and digital programming that I don't have a lot of time to learn, study and understand. Sometimes I just have to memorize them and later figure what they mean," she said.

The only time she has available to do her homework or work on projects is during the week in between her classes.

"It's hard sometimes for me to get organized especially with school and working two jobs and stress on top of everything else," Adam said.

Pressing goals require student to have plenty of enthusiasm

By Patrick Tighe

Rob Fries has a lot on his plate and finds he rarely has time to sit down and eat.

He's a full-time general business student. He works a part-time job. He's got an ambitious business venture well under way.

You won't hear any complaints from Fries. He keeps this frantic pace because he has to. His enthusiasm demands it.

He can account for nearly every hour of his waking day. At school, he carries the demands of five courses and a constant stream of assignments.

Roughly 20 hours a week are allotted to Brews Brothers, his father's brew-on-premises business.

In spite of his schedule, Fries finds time for leisure beginning on Friday afternoon.

He spends a few hours with his girlfriend before calling it a day around 1 a.m. The next morning he's up early to open his father's business for 9 a.m. Sundays are dedicated to doing his homework.

During March break, every available moment was thrown



Rob Fries shows the floor plan to his latest project The Thunder Zone.

(Photo by Patrick Tighe)

into his latest project, The Thunder Zone. Sitting in the student lounge a few weeks ago, Fries was amazed by the amount of money disappearing into the video games and billards tables.

Describing himself as "highly resourceful and an opportunist", Fries saw the chance to put his talents to the test immediately. "My motto is 'I wait for no man'. I can't wait, I have no patience to

wait," he said.

He approached two classmates and a partnership was formed. The trio spent their break, sometimes working in shifts, to draft a proposal for an arcade/billards venue of their own. They hope to open in the Highland Hills plaza in Kitchener, which has 7,700 school-age children within a 15-minute radius.

Financing was a major obstacle.

Government loans, such as the Student Venture loan and New Venture loan, were either impractical or inappropriate for the partner's needs. Getting financing through the bank was nearly impossible because of what Fries calls "ageism".

He feels that many first-time entrepreneurs are discriminated against because of their youth.

The bank ultimately put its res-

ervation aside. "Our professionalism alone did it," Fries said. "hrew the proposal on the desk and they said 'wow'."

A meeting between the partners' lawyer and the mall's leasing agent will decide if the project gets the final go-ahead.

Fries projects that The Thunder Zone will net revenues of \$36,000 in its first year. Where will the profits be going? Wine, women, song? No. Fries and friends have visions of GICs and painless downpayments on new homes.

Does he have any ideas for future business ventures? The answers come fast and furious. He envisions newspaper boxes which dispense a single paper, eliminating a greedy grab by a dishonest patron.

Or a 900 number which would supply invaluable business tips to other entrepreneurs at a moderate fee.

"There's a deal being made every minute, if you're in on every minute—you're in on every deal," he said. His next project just may be finding a way to put more minutes on the clock.

Student overwhelmed by business program

By James K. Leduc

Working two part-time retail jobs, following the Blue Jays, restoring two cars and pursuing a general business degree at Conestoga College might suggest that Andrew Schneider has too much on his plate.

The 19-year-old Cambridge native is in his first year at the college and is impressed with the calibre of the course.

"Almost everything about the program is on the mark," said Schneider.

Due to rising tuition costs many students in the '90s are forced to work part-time and Schneider is not an exception to the rule but his reasons for working go further than just making ends meet.

"My goal is to be an owner or manager of a Carman Cameras franchise store, or have a position in head office," said Schneider.

Schneider works part-time at the Woodstock Carman Cameras location and part-time at Carman's head office in London.

He believes the practical experience complements the learning experience.

"In general business I get ac-

counting, marketing and English," said Schneider. "Everything I need to know about small business."

Schneider considers himself lucky because he manages the retail outlet in Woodstock when the owner is away on business.

He has learned every facet of running a small business including customer service, ordering stock, advertising and banking.

"Carman's is related to what I want to do.

The hours I put in at the store don't affect my schoolwork, but my 19 hours of class per week and the many hours of homework affect my job."

Schneider said the Christmas season can become demanding when trying to juggle all his responsibilities.

"My boss wants me to get to the store as soon as I am done classes for the day."

Schneider said the benefits from his position are two-fold.

He is able to pay his way through college and is also able to determine if his education is up-to-date.

"Everything is Windows-based and we are being taught Lotus and Wordperfect," said Schneider.

"You will have to be able to adapt once you enter the workforce."

This future entrepreneur has secured full-time employment for the summer and most of the money will go towards his education but, Schneider has two other hobbies that keep him active.

"I am restoring a '67 Chevelle and I don't mind spending part of my wages to bring this car back to original condition."

The other portion of his wage is spent on the Blue Jays games in Toronto.

He believes he works hard for his money and can't justify spending it all on his education.

"I am satisfied with the money I make but I feel it is time for a raise. I see myself as more than a normal sales clerk and I should be compensated for my experience and dedication."

The reality of a 60-70 hour work week, that is required of small business owners, is not an unfamiliar concept to Schneider.

"I need to get the education now because once you own a small business or manage one there won't be any time left for school."

The rising cost of tuition means



First-year general business student Andrew Schneider, 19, finds Conestoga's program satisfying. (Photo by James Leduc)

one thing to Schneider.

"I guess I will have to work an extra week this summer in order to cover the cost of the increase.

"I am not really concerned about the increase but, it will put an education out of reach for some of my

fellow students."

Advertising is the back-up career plan if small business does not work out for Schneider.

"It is a possibility, because some days I leave work asking why I put myself through this."

Tough economy and rising costs create difficult times for students

By Catharine MacDonald

Tough economic times and rising tuition fees may be forcing some students to get part-time jobs in order to remain in school.

Jason Plein, a third-year student in Conestoga College's construction engineering program believes he is only one of many such students.

Plein works at the Business Depot on Courtland Avenue from 25 to 30 hours a week.

He works from 5 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. four out of five school nights and Saturday from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m.

As he lives in Elmira, Plein also spends at least an hour and a half of his day travelling. His busy schedule leaves him little time for homework.

"Obviously my school work has suffered because of my job," he said in an interview at the college.

Although Plein does not think he would have to quit school if he lost his job because he lives with his parents, things would be difficult.

He did not apply for a student loan this year and depends on his part-time income to pay for gas, credit card bills and spending money.

At the beginning of the school year in September, Plein tried to hold down two jobs. After his shift, he would rush to Stages nightclub on King Street West in Kitchener where he worked in coatcheck.

On a typical night at Stages, he would finish work at 2:30 a.m.

After a month of this schedule Plein was forced to quit Stages.

"I just couldn't do it any more, the hours were too late," he said.

Plein's duties at the Business Depot, an office supplies store, are not related to what he is learning in school.

He works as a "customer service representative" stocking shelves and working the cash register.

"It's hard to find a part-time job in my field. I've been looking through the papers to find something for this summer but there is nothing out there," he said.

He finds the prospect of getting full-time work discouraging with no future job offers at hand.

He says that at the Business Depot all the part-time employees are students, mostly from college and university with only a few in high school.

There is resentment between some of the full and part-time employees.

"They don't feel we do work when we come in although we work harder than them sometimes," he argued.

His employer is more lenient towards students who need time off for school but do not offer the staff any discounts on the supplies they sell. "We don't get anything," he joked.

After he is finished school Plein plans to keep his job at the Business Depot until he finds full-time work.

Nursing student copes with stress and pressure of work and school

By Steve Troy

Traci Schmidt, a first-year nursing student at Conestoga College, has learned to cope with the pressure and stress of keeping a job while attending school.

Schmidt works 25 hours a week and has five hours of assigned homework daily and still manages to handle the worries of rent, bills and tuition.

How does she do it?

Schmidt said in an interview at Doon campus, "I work, save and hope that eventually I'll get where

I want to be." Which in her case would be a job in the nursing field.

Confronted with the possibility of no jobs, Schmidt will take what she can get.

"If that means moving to the U.S. for a job I'll do it."

Self-motivation is a key factor in Schmidt's work life. She has no financial support other than her job and therefore organizes her spending of time and money wisely, with the occasional indulgence.

"I'll give myself a 'me-day',

maybe a facial or a hot bath to release my stress."

Schmidt's opinion of school is optimistic and understanding,

"The workload was expected, but since our (nursing) assignment and test dates are given to us in advance, it allows me to plan studying around my work schedule and my instructors are very co-operative."

Schmidt's attitude toward work may seem rare, but she has her gripes as well.

"I never sleep in any more and

have hardly any time to party with friends let alone money to spend on partying," she said.

Schmidt claims that living on her own has helped her to become responsible and has reduced distractions, enabling her to focus on her studies.

She's also learned how to survive with less luxuries. "I can only get the necessities. Let's put it this way, you won't see me at Fairview Mall dragging around countless bags of clothes," she said.

Some people's stress level

would rocket just pondering supporting themselves while maintaining high marks at school but Schmidt is completely opposite, "Work doesn't affect my schooling. I won't let it. I have to make sacrifices and live with them."

Schmidt has adapted to the quickly changing times of the 90's.

By remaining focused and determined, she believes she can overcome any obstacle encountered. "If I work hard it'll pay off in the end."

Single parent would trade places with students who work part-time

By Brenda Boomer

A Conestoga student from the Cambridge campus says that students who work part-time really have nothing to complain about.

Carrie Bentley, 25, is a single parent of two small children as well as a full-time student in upgrading. "I think a part-time job would be a breeze to me. Being a full-time mom and student is hell. It's a 24-hour-a-day job, and only working part-time would be heaven in comparison," she said in an interview.

Being a mom and a student is one of the hardest things that she has ever done in her life. "Being a single mother is hard enough in itself, but when you're loaded down with schoolwork all day and into the evening, it really is tough," she said.

Bentley starts her day at 6 o'clock every morning. This is the only way she can get herself ready before she wakes the children at 7 a.m. "This way I can wolf down a cup of coffee and have a shower before school."

Bentley said after she wakes the children it is not as if she can just throw their clothes at them and tell them to get dressed. "My oldest, Robbie, is almost five, and Derrick is only 19 months. Let's just say the mornings are hectic," she said. Bentley leaves the house at 8 a.m. and takes her children to daycare. Robbie goes to Christopher House daycare, and Derrick goes to a home daycare provider. Then she rushes herself over to Conestoga in Cambridge to start her day.

Her grades are good, but she feels she could do better if she did not have so many responsibilities. "It's not just school and being a mom. It's everything. Running a household has all its chores as well. Sometimes the kids get sick and that's when I fall behind," she said.

Bentley would feel less pressure if teachers could be more understanding when it comes to single parents.

She said teachers have asked her what she would do when she got to Doon. "I find this really discouraging.

It almost makes me afraid to even try. I just wish they would be more reassuring. At least then if I failed, I wouldn't have been so intimidated," she said.

She almost quit once because she felt a lot of negativity from her teachers. She had a discussion with one teacher about her choice in taking nursing. "She told me that I should consider applying for a health care aid. When I first started school, I felt like super mom. That ended in six months," she said.

This single mother felt guilty being away from the children so often. She makes sure when her school day has ended, she spends time with her boys. "I'm mom, dad, and playmate. I make sure they have my time after school. They don't need a mother who's up and gone all the time," she said.

Bentley feels she can succeed at Doon, in the nursing program, though she is having a hard time, now. She is glad to be dealing with her dilemmas before she gets there. "Maybe I'll get my second wind of being super mom," she said.

Conestoga in Cambridge had a counsellor talk to Bentley concerning her ability to apply for nursing.

She said the interview with Roger Mainland went well and he felt there was no reason why she should not apply for the program she wanted. "He said that even though I had a rough time here, my ambition and enthusiasm for the program was strong enough to overcome the obstacles I'm facing now."

She feels she can succeed at Doon and is eagerly waiting for an acceptance letter to see if she can start this fall.

Still feeling a bit insecure from the negativity she thinks she is getting, she nevertheless believes she can do it because it has been something that she has wanted to do. She admits some of her problems in up-grading was with her personal life, but now feels more determined than ever. "Come hell or high water, I'll do it," she said.



Second-year early childhood education student Leanne Bilbrough finds her boss understanding about her education.

(Photo by Dan Wettlaufer)

Student gets flexible schedule from understanding employer

By Dan Wettlaufer

Leanne Bilbrough, like so many other students, has chosen to work part-time in order to help her achieve her goal of graduating from Conestoga College.

She is currently enrolled in the early childhood education program, and is in her second year.

In order to make ends meet she works at Zellers in Woodstock, as a customer-service representative, or a cashier.

She also helps out in different departments when assistance is needed.

"Sometimes I fill in for staff who have called in sick, or when full-time employees are on their supper or smoke break," said Bilbrough.

"I work because I want to be independent," she said. "I don't want to be too much of a burden on my parents."

She said she originally got a job in order to save to go to college.

"Money hasn't really been an issue for me in the last two years," said Bilbrough. "I saved enough money to pay for my tuition and books for two years."

She also said that if she lost her job at Zellers it wouldn't affect her college career, her parents would help her out in any way they could.

Bilbrough works part-time so she has money, and if she can't get a job at a daycare when she has graduated, she plans to continue working at Zellers.

"Everybody needs a source of money, so I'll work at Zellers until I get a full-time job doing what I want to do," said Bilbrough.

While working does have its benefits, it also has its drawbacks.

"Sometimes work does interfere with my schoolwork," she said. "I end up going to bed at two or three

in the morning because I've been doing homework all night long."

This is a problem many students face when they work and go to school. Some employers resent the fact that their part-time help have other things on their minds instead of work.

According to Bilbrough, her boss Ann Hinchley, is not one of those employers.

"Ann tries to work around our school schedule," said Bilbrough.

Bilbrough said that Hinchley is considerate about the fact that students are trying to better themselves by getting an education.

Some students also find that going to college interferes with their ability to work.

"Some girls have problems, they show up late or don't come to work at all," said Bilbrough. "I think that is a lack of responsibility on their behalf."

Most students don't get this kind of treatment from their employers, and Bilbrough feels lucky enough to have a boss that is understanding with her employees.

"Ann is usually willing to give us time off if we inform her a couple of days ahead of time," said Bilbrough. "She's really good about working the schedule around so we don't become overloaded with work and school."

With tuition being raised even higher this year, students will soon have no other choice but to get a job, said Bilbrough.

"I feel bad for people who will be going to college in the next couple of years," she said.

"The government is raising the cost of education so much, I can't understand how students will be able to cope with the issue of money," said Bilbrough.

Single parent burned out in first year

By Maria Wareham

Burned out but excited is how Conestoga student and single-parent, Laura Vaillancourt, feels as first year wraps up.

Vaillancourt, 28, is a full-time student in the business administration management program at Doon and a parent of three children.

Surviving first year of college while being a single parent has been her toughest experience. "I'm really burned out, it's been tough, but I'm excited. I'm going to finish first year.

It's all worth it," she said in an interview.

Getting through it all has meant overcoming some fears, making sacrifices and dealing with stress and the guilt of going to school and raising her kids, Steven, 7, and twins Melissa and Melanie, 5.

The guilt of not having enough time to spend with her kids has led Vaillancourt to put aside Monday nights as family night.

It is especially hard when there

is no time to work out problems and give the kids what they need, she said. "I feel guilty big time."

It's usually after 8 p.m., when her kids are in bed, before she gets a chance to do her homework.

With a typical day being a whirlwind of work from the time she gets up at 6:30 a.m. to bed-time, midnight or later, time with the kids is not the only thing there is no time for.

"I look at the laundry piled up and it makes me question what I've done," she said.

"Social life, I forgot what that is. I have fallen asleep at 6 o'clock on Friday nights." Socializing is definitely one thing you have to sacrifice, she said.

Vaillancourt has not seen much of her old friends, but she said when she does it makes her realize how far she has come.

There have been a few times, when there is a lot of work and she is really stressed out, Vaillancourt has thought of throwing in the towel. "Some-

times you feel you're going crazy," she said. "But I remind myself to take things one step at a time. Don't worry about things two weeks down the road."

She has found learning to manage her time for herself can reduce the stress, she said.

Vaillancourt gives most of her teachers credit for being understanding.

She said, "Teachers have said if you had to miss a test because kids were sick you had another chance to do it."

Vaillancourt feels it is ridiculous to expect students to be in class everyday.

Teachers should give them some leeway, she said.

Despite it all, Vaillancourt would tell any parent considering going back to school to go for it.

"It's making me a better person. The better I become the better I am with my kids," she said.

"Somehow they know I'm doing this for them too. Kids are smarter than we give them credit for," said Vaillancourt.